

Prime factors are divisors which are prime numbers.
The number itself can also be prime factor.

1) One naive approach could be check all numbers till numbers if they are divisor and prime
 TC - $O(n \times \sqrt{n})$
 ↑ ↑
 Looping through numbers Finding sqrt.

3) Another more optimized approach would be to loop from 2 to n and if n is divisible by i add i to the list of answer. Also, while n is divisible by " i " keep dividing it by " i " till it's no longer divisible by it to handle all multiples of that number. Finally if number is not 1 add it to list as well.

```
public static List<Integer> generatePrimeFactors(int n) {
    List<Integer> primeFactors = new ArrayList<>();
    for (int i = 2; i * i < n; i++) {
        if (n % i == 0) {
            primeFactors.add(i);
            while (n % i == 0) { n = n / i; }
        }
    }
    if (n != 1)
        primeFactors.add(n);
    return primeFactors;
}
```

TC - $O(\sqrt{n} \times \log n)$

This is because we are changing the base of the number.

This comes from while loop whose we are dividing n .
The base for this will keep changing.